

determined in order to diagnose the  $\alpha_{2u}$ -globulin nephropathy which is caused in male rats by the administration of chemical substances. However, it is a mere method for a specific nephropathy model, wherein  $\alpha_{2u}$ -globulin remarkably accumulates.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 7 and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend the following claims:

Claim 9. (Twice Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the antibody specifically binding to the liver-type fatty acid binding protein is an antibody that does not cross-react with a heart muscle-type fatty acid binding protein.

Claim 14. (Twice Amended) A reagent or kit for diagnosis or prognosis, which is used in the method according to any one of claims 16, 2, 4, 6, 9, and 17-26.

Claim 17. (Amended) The method according to claim 16, wherein the step (b) is carried out by

(i) contacting the specimen with an antibody specifically binding to liver-type fatty acid binding protein;

(ii) separating unbound antibody from the antibody bound to said protein; and

(iii) detecting the antibody bound to said protein.

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Claim 23. (Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the immune complex nephropathy is selected from the group consisting of IgA nephropathy and membranous nephropathy.

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Please add the following claims:

24. (New) A method for diagnosing the progression of kidney disease in a patient suffering therefrom, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a specimen collected from said patient;

(b) assaying for liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and

(c) diagnosing the progression of the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b).

25. (New) A method for prognosing the further progress of kidney disease in a patient suffering therefrom, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a specimen collected from said patient;

(b) assaying for liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and

(c) prognosing the further progress of the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b).

26. (New) A method for determining the effect of medication in a patient suffering from kidney disease and being medicated for said kidney disease, comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing a specimen collected from said patient;

(b) assaying for liver-type fatty acid binding protein contained in said specimen; and

(c) determining the effect of said medication on the kidney disease based on the test result of the detection in (b).

Attached hereto is a marked up version showing the changes made to the application by this Amendment.